

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-11. (canceled)

12. (currently Amended) A method for producing a continuous extrusion molding product with varying profile using a molding machine comprising a die and at least one shaping knife comprising the steps of:

extruding molten material through an opening in the die when the shaping knife is in a first operational position defining a first contour in the opening to form a molding product with a first profile, wherein the shaping knife is substantially planar in shape, and has a longitudinal molding surface extending to a distal end thereof to form the first profile; and

gradually rotating the shaping knife about an axis non-parallel to the flow direction of the molten material to a second operational position defining a second contour in the opening to alter the profile of the molding product across a gradient range of intermediate profiles to a second profile.

13. (original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the molten material is thermoplastic resin, elastomer, or foam resin.

14. (original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the shaping knife is rotated around an axis perpendicular to the plane containing the first axis.

15. (original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the shaping knife is rotated around an axis oblique to the plane containing the first axis.

16. (original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the shaping knife has a leading edge which is wedge shaped, and when the shaping knife is rotated from the first operational position to the second operational position, the wedge cuts into the flow of molten material.

17. (original) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the step of rotating the shaping knife from the second operational position to the first operational position.

18. (currently Amended) A method for producing a continuous extrusion molding product with varying profile using a molding machine comprising a die, a first shaping knife and a second shaping knife comprising the steps of:

extruding molten material through an opening in the die when the first and second shaping knives are in a first operational position together defining a first contour in the opening to form a molding product with a first profile, wherein each of the shaping knives is substantially planar in shape, and has a longitudinal molding surface extending to a distal end thereof to form the first profile; and

gradually rotating the first shaping knife about a first axis perpendicular to the flow direction of the molten material to a second operational position and gradually rotating the second shaping knife about an axis oblique to the flow direction of the molten material to a second operational position, the second operational positions of the first and second shaping knives defining a second contour in the opening, to alter the profile of the molding product across a gradient range of intermediate profiles to a second profile.

19. (original) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the molten material is thermoplastic resin, elastomer, or foam resin.

20. (original) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the first and second shaping knives each have a leading edge which is wedge shaped for cutting into the flow of molten material.

21. (original) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising the step of rotating the first and second shaping knives from their second operational positions to the first operational positions.